

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 93**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Buchanan**

February 11, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 93, as introduced, Buchanan. Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month.

This measure would proclaim the month of March 2014 as Drug Abuse Awareness Month in California, and encourage all citizens to participate in prevention programs and activities and to pledge to “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill.”

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, There were more deaths caused by drug overdoses
- 2 in 2010 than traffic accidents among people 25 to 64 years of age;
- 3 and
- 4 WHEREAS, In 2010, drug overdoses in the United States of
- 5 America caused 38,329 deaths and 22,134 of those deaths were
- 6 from prescription drugs; and
- 7 WHEREAS, In 2011, an estimated 22.5 million Americans 12
- 8 years of age or older used an illicit drug or abused a prescription
- 9 drug in the past month; and
- 10 WHEREAS, In 2009, 1.2 million emergency department visits
- 11 were related to misuse or abuse of pharmaceuticals, an increase
- 12 of 98.4 percent since 2004; and

1 WHEREAS, Nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs  
2 health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health care  
3 costs; and

4 WHEREAS, Overdose deaths involving opioid pain relievers  
5 now exceed more deaths from heroin and cocaine combined; and

6 WHEREAS, As many as 70 percent of people who abuse  
7 prescription drugs get them from a relative or friend instead of a  
8 doctor; and

9 WHEREAS, Americans that participated in the Drug  
10 Enforcement Administration's (DEA) seventh National Prescription  
11 Drug Take-Back Day on October 26, 2013, turned in more than  
12 647,211 pounds of unwanted or expired medications for safe and  
13 proper disposal at the 4,114 take-back sites that were available in  
14 all 50 states and the territories of the United States. When the  
15 results of all seven Take-Back Days are combined, the DEA and  
16 its state, local, and tribal law enforcement, and community partners  
17 have removed 3.4 million pounds of medication from circulation;  
18 and

19 WHEREAS, The National Coalition Against Prescription Drug  
20 Abuse, the Contra Costa County Prescription Drug Abuse  
21 Prevention Coalition, the Alcohol and Other Drugs Advisory Board  
22 in cooperation with the Contra Costa Behavioral Health Division's  
23 Alcohol and Other Drugs Services, law enforcement,  
24 community-based organizations, alcohol and other drug service  
25 providers, and civic and business leaders coordinate Prescription  
26 Drug Abuse Awareness Month activities in the County of Contra  
27 Costa and California to engage our citizens in demonstrating their  
28 commitment to prevention campaigns and education aimed at  
29 raising awareness about the abuse and misuse of prescription drugs,  
30 promoting prescription drug safe storing and disposal, and using  
31 medications only as prescribed; and

32 WHEREAS, Families, schools, businesses, faith-based  
33 communities, law enforcement, medical professionals, county and  
34 local governments, health care practitioners, and pharmacists in  
35 the County of Contra Costa, the state, and the general public will  
36 demonstrate their commitment to the prevention of prescription  
37 medication abuse by participating in activities intended to highlight  
38 local efforts during the month of March; and

39 WHEREAS, The Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
40 and the Legislature support April 26, 2014, as National Prescription

1 Drug Take-Back Day as declared by the DEA, and encourages  
2 residents to locate their local collection site and safely dispose of  
3 their accumulated unwanted and unused prescription drugs; now,  
4 therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
6 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby declare March  
7 2014, as Prescription Drug Abuse Awareness Month, and  
8 encourages all citizens to participate in prevention programs and  
9 activities, and to safely store and dispose of their medication on a  
10 continual basis, and to encourage all community members to  
11 pledge, “Spread the Word ... One Pill Can Kill”; and be further

12 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
13 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.